


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee for this Council meeting.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

23 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

### **11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman**

Can the lead member update the chamber on progress with the council's accounts? These were left unsigned for the past 6 years under the previous administration

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Asma Begum**

What are the Mayor and Lead Member's plans in respect of the LIF programme of activities which have been identified for local investment by local residents, particularly on the Isle of Dogs which has undergone significant population increase and is in much need of relevant infrastructure?

### **11.3 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed**

Can lead member set out the timetable for Council-wide audit which was agreed at full council last summer?

### **11.4 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar**

I understand Capitol funding has been removed from the Oaklands redevelopment. Can the Lead Member explain his rationale for the removal of this vital funding?

### **11.5 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled**

Could the lead member provide an update on the ongoing work being undertaken by the Interim CEO as outlined at the Budget Full Council

### **11.6 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

I understand the new Mayor's Office is currently undergoing construction work in our New Town Hall here in Whitechapel which is significantly larger than originally planned.

Can the Mayor tell me what is the cost of creating this larger office space?

### **11.7 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin**

The Mayor pledged to address the shortage of affordable housing in the borough. Can the Mayor or lead member set out his delivery plan with numbers?

### **11.8 Question from Councillor Amy Lee**

Can the Mayor outline how he is holding Homecare providers to account, to ensure they are providing high quality care to vulnerable residents, as well as providing value for money for the council?

### **11.9 Question from Councillor Wahid Ali**

The Mayor of London recently announced universal free school meals for Primary School children across London. Can the lead member tell us when this will be implemented, and how much it could save the council as it already provides this service?

### **11.10 Question from Councillor Asma Islam**

Demand for housing means private landlords and letting agents are raising rents with impunity, putting people at risk of being priced out of their homes.

Can the Lead Member detail what he is doing to protect private renters from these rent increases and help residents stay in their homes?

### **11.11 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain**

Can the lead member provide feedback on the consultation results in relation to Tower Hamlets Homes coming inhouse?

### **11.12 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member set out the actions that have been taken since May 2022 to revitalise Roman Road market and businesses on the high street in Bow?

### **11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir**

Could the lead member update Council on additional measures the Council has put in place to help residents in the Borough with the Cost-of-Living crisis?

### **11.14 Question from Councillor James King**

Can the Mayor provide an update on the actions undertaken as a result of his meeting in November last year with residents of Malting & Brewster Houses regarding the structural works in those blocks?

### **11.15 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan**

Can the lead member provide an update of where the Council is with the Liveable Streets consultation?

### **11.16 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

As you will know, it was LGBT+ History Month in February – a time to celebrate the vital contributions the LGBT+ community has had on Tower Hamlets society and to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public. Unfortunately there is the worrying trend of rising hate crime across the borough that we do need to address - what

measures is the Lead Member for Community Safety putting in place to ensure the Council protects our LGBT+ LGBT community in Tower Hamlets?

**11.17 Question from Councillor Harun Main**

One of the Mayor's central manifesto pledges was reinvesting in policing and tackling ASB, can he or the lead member provide an update on this?

**11.18 Question from Councillor Rebekah Sultana**

I understand that LIF funding is being dropped from vital redevelopment projects, including Frank Dobson Square in my ward. Can the Mayor outline how his administration will be improving Frank Dobson Square now that they have removed the plans put in place by the previous Labour administration?

**11.19 Question from Councillor Ana Miah**

Can the lead member explain what Mayor Rahman's Administration is doing to ensure Tower Hamlets becomes a greener Borough?

**11.20 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan**

Our residents have been concerned about the lack of progress on bulk waste collection across the borough. Can the Lead Member provide an update on when our residents will see any improvement on this important issue?

**11.21 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed**

The previous Labour administration did a lot of vital and good work to address fire safety across the borough for the protection of our residents. Can the Lead Member detail how the administration is building on this good work?

**11.22 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait**

Rising sea levels present a flood risk to Tower Hamlets and the rest of London. What is the administration doing to start to plan to mitigate the risk of flooding for the areas of the borough most at risk?

**11.23 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

With the pausing of the redevelopment of George Green's School on the Isle of Dogs, will the Mayor do his utmost to ensure that Northern and Shell sign the agreement to permit the development of the Westferry School site which has planning consent.